



# Chalfonts U3A Newsletter No. 21 • December 2016

A Very Happy Christmas & New Year to all our Members



## DIARY DATES FOR 2017 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

- |                        |                      |   |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>11 January 2017</b> | David Keen           | <i>will speak about the Dambusters Raid (our speaker and guide at RAF Hendon)</i>   |
| <b>8 February 2015</b> | Ken and June Brazier | <i>Will give a joint presentation on Mercy Ships which started in 1978 with a mission to provide 'Hope and Healing' to some of the poorest countries in the world. The charity operates mainly in West Africa and especially in Sierra Leone.</i> |



**Wednesday 14 December** – We look forward to an entertaining talk this afternoon about that well-loved comedian Norman Wisdom and then the Singing for Pleasure group will invite us to join in the singing of Christmas Carols. There will also be a free raffle with and we would like you to stay and have some seasonal refreshments with us after the meeting. Our first monthly meeting in 2017 will soon come around and we look forward to seeing you all then.



### IMPORTANT: HOW TO FIND OUR NEW WEBSITE ONLINE!

If you use any search engine and type in "Chalfonts U3A" as a search term, our new website does not automatically appear at the top of the list of entries. Currently it's lying around seventh or eighth place on their first page. This is because the old website, which has now been removed entirely, is still being indexed by the special software used by search engines. This means we will not be top of the list until the old website literally gets exhausted and the robots catch up with reality. Robots are amazing but they aren't 'human'. They are clever but they aren't able to learn as quickly as we would all like them to. Search engines, and their complex mathematical algorithm will, eventually, learn that the old website is no longer available.

The easiest way to find our new custom-built website is to type <http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk> directly into the browser address bar. This will automatically find our website for you. If you are referring others to the website please ask them to do the same.



### THAMES VALLEY NETWORK STUDY DAY - Glimpses of the Social History of the Thames Valley

The TVN Network is holding this Study Day on Wednesday 22 March 2017. The location is at The River & Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames. The intention of the study day is to shed light on different aspects of the lives of people in past centuries, in the towns and villages of the Thames Valley. The panel of speakers are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They will open these windows on the landscape of the past for those that attend the day. If any member is interested in attending then we advise you book your place early. From experience we know that TVN events get filled up pretty quickly. [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk)



## U3A NATIONAL EVENTS - Booking in the New Year - [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

9 March	National Gallery	Dutch Painting Study Day
16 March	Royal Institution Spring Meeting	
27 March	The British Library London	Mughal India: Art and Culture****

### NEW GROUPS

**Bus Pass Adventures** – One of the benefits of being older is that you can get a bus pass! We thought it might be a nice idea to set up a group for members who would like to make full use of their bus passes and have some adventures using them! This could be anything from a day visit to somewhere interesting like St Albans or something more exotic. It's up to you! If you are up for a big adventure, please contact Nigel Trotman on [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk).

**Coffee Mornings** – Other U3As hold regular coffee mornings for their members. Someone books a table at a local coffee shop and members can turn up as and when they want. Is this something that might be of interest to you? If so, please send an email to Helen Whitlum on [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk).

**Extreme Activities!** – Are you the type of person who would like to “have a go” at all sorts of adventurous activities? It could be anything from abseiling to tobogganning or white water rafting to segway or anything else you'd like to try – the more exciting the better! If you think this might be the group for you, please contact Nigel Trotman on [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk).

**German** - Können Sie ein bisschen Deutsch? Would you like to speak more? We have thriving French, Italian and Spanish groups - is there any interest in forming a German conversation group? If so please email [vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk).

**Personal Finance and Investment (proposed new group)** – We have received a good response to this proposed new group but there is room for more. Would members interested in joining a group to discuss any aspect of the subject which interests them, inviting specialist speakers etc, please get in touch with Geoff Whaley who is to convene such a group. This would essentially be a discussion group and its scope would not extend to advice on financial matters.

**Public Speaking** - Simone Kunzig would welcome anyone interested in joining her to start a public speaking group. No previous experience is necessary. If you are terrified of speaking in public or wish to improve your technique, this could be for you. If you wish to join or learn more about this new group please email Simone.

**Quizzing** – We are thinking of setting up a quizzing group so that we can enter a Chalfonts U3A team into any local quizzes. If there is enough interest this could also be a regular group so get your thinking caps on and decide if you would like to take part. If you are interested in joining in with the fun, please contact Helen Whitlum on [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

### EXISTING GROUPS

**Theatre Group** - We recently had a very enjoyable visit to see Kinky Boots followed by a carvery meal. Our next outing is to the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre to see “Gaslight”, a psychological thriller on Thursday, the 19 January 2017 for a matinee performance at 2.30. The cost for seats in the stalls is £29.00 per person, including the coach to and from Chalfont St Peter. Full details are on the website or email: [theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

Diary notes: - **School of Rock:** New London Theatre: Monday, 6 February at 7.30

**An American in Paris:** - Dominion Theatre, London: Monday, 7 August 7.30

**This newsletter is also available in large print if needed. Please allow two days' notice.**

**Contact Val Smith: [contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)**

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:**

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<b>David Burbidge</b>	<b><u><a href="mailto:chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a></u></b>
<b>Geoff Glover</b>	<b><u><a href="mailto:vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a></u></b>
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<b>Val Darbyshire</b>	<b><u><a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a></u></b>
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<b>Helen Whitlum</b>	<b><u><a href="mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a></u></b>
	<b><u><a href="mailto:suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a></u></b>

**Chalfonts U3A Website: <http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk>**

**National Website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)**

**Thames Valley Network Website: [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk)**